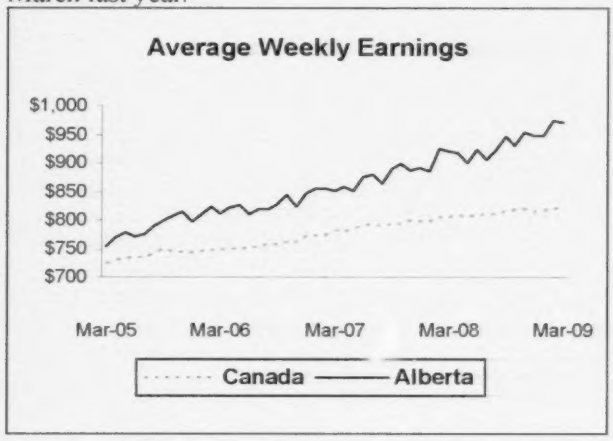
Average Weekly Earnings

Alberta weekly earnings continue to rise…

Average weekly earnings in Alberta increased in March, up 5.6% year-over-year. Workers in Alberta now earn an average of $971.07 dollars per week, the highest among provinces and well above the Canadian average. The largest gain was seen in management of companies and enterprises, which rose 11.8% month-over-month. Nationally, average weekly earnings rose to $824.98, a 2.7% gain from March last year.



Current Account Balance

Decline in exports increases trade deficit…

Canada's current account balance reached a $9.1 billion deficit in the first quarter of 2009, compared to a $7.8 billion deficit in the previous quarter. The growing deficit was largely caused by a decrease in the goods surplus, which fell to $0.8 billion, due to a drop in the value of exports to the United States. Large drops were seen in both energy and automotive product exports.

Corporate Profits

Corporations seeing less revenue…

A decrease in revenue led to declines in profits as Canadian corporations reported operating profits of $55.1 billion for the first quarter of 2009, a decrease of 11.8% from the fourth quarter of 2008. Canadian oil and gas extractors earned $4.3 billion in profits, down 33.5% from last quarter.

Canadian Dollar (US¢/CS)

May 29, 2009	91.23
May 22, 2009	89.02
2009-10 YTD	84.26

WTI Oil US$/bbl

May 28, 2009	$ 65.08
May 21, 2009	$ 61.05
2009-10 YTD	$ 54.17

Nymex Natural Gas CS/MMBtu *
Near-month Contract

May 29, 2009	$ 4.51
May 22, 2009	$ 4.04

* Estimate based on Nymex Futures Market Price

Employment Insurance

Beneficiaries increase…

The number of Albertans receiving regular employment insurance benefits increased to 42,160 in March, a record month-over-month increase of 37.6%. The increase in beneficiaries was highest for men and for youth under 25 years old. Canadian E.I. numbers were also up, with an 11.7% increase from February.

The sharp increase in Alberta was largely caused by the province's very low numbers of E.I. beneficiaries entering this current cycle. Strict eligibility requirements for Alberta recipients, as well as the province's very low unemployment in the past two years, meant that very few people were receiving benefits prior to this downturn.

Global Economy

Economic news defies expectations…

Consumer confidence in the U.S. increased by the largest amount in six years, reflecting speculation that the worst of the downturn may be over. Further, the U.S. economy contracted by a smaller than expected 5.7% in the first quarter. In Japan, industrial production saw its biggest jump in 56 years in April, while India's economy grew at a better than expected 5.8%. This rise in sentiment, combined with a weaker U.S. dollar, lifted the price of oil to a six-month high above US$66. Also, the Canadian dollar jumped by more than 7 cents this month, closing above 91 cents US.

CURRENT ECONOMIC INDICATORS

May 29, 2009

Overall Economy	2007	2008	2009YTD*	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr
Real GDP (in 2002 $billions)	187.5	187.0	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
% change	3.1	-0.2	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Nominal GDP ($ billions)	258.9	291.7	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
% change	8.1	12.6	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Population[1] (000's) (level)	3,511	3,585	3,632	--	--	3,632	--	--	--
% change	2.6	2.1	2.4	--	--	2.6	--	--	--
Net Interprovincial Migraton[1] (level)	33,809	10,010	11,125	--	--	6,198	--	--	--
Net International Migration[1] (level)	16,136	19,283	9,004	--	--	4,097	--	--	--
Net Non-permanent Residents[1] (level)	13,539	17,890	12,931	--	--	4,870	--	--	--
Labour Market									
Employment (000's)	1,959	2,013	2,002	2,032	2,023	2,026	2,002	1,987	1,993
% change	4.7	2.8	-0.1	3.2	1.5	1.2	0.2	-1.0	-0.9
Unemployment Rate (%)	3.5	3.6	5.4	3.5	4.2	4.4	5.4	5.8	6.0
Average Hourly Wage Rate	6.0	5.7	4.6	5.0	4.1	6.2	4.5	3.6	--
Average Weekly Earnings[2] NEW!	5.8	6.0	6.0	7.6	6.3	7.0	5.4	5.6	--
Labour Income[3]	11.3	8.4	--	7.3	6.8	--	--	--	--
Price Indices									
Consumer Price Index	5.0	3.1	0.9	2.1	1.9	1.2	2.1	0.9	-0.7
Excluding food and energy	4.9	1.9	1.5	1.8	1.7	1.5	2.0	1.4	1.1
Non-Res. Const. Cost Index[4] (quarterly)	17.3	13.2	-1.0	--	8.8 (Q4)	--	--	-1.0(Q1)	--
Farm Product Price Index	14.3	11.1	-7.1	-0.9	-4.7	-6.2	-7.9	--	--
Crops	41.4	26.3	-24.3	-14.9	-20.7	-22.8	-25.7	--	--
Livestock	0.7	2.1	13.0	17.7	13.5	13.7	12.4	--	--
Household Sector									
Housing Starts (SAAR, 000's)	48.1	29.0	13.2	20.5	20.0	15.7	12.6	11.9	12.4
% change	-2.1	-39.7	-65.2	-52.7	-48.3	-53.0	-59.4	-75.1	4.2
New Housing Price Index	22.5	0.7	-9.7	-5.1	-6.1	-8.4	-9.6	-10.5	--
Edmonton	32.1	1.0	-12.1	-7.9	-8.2	-10.4	-12.2	-12.3	--
Calgary	16.2	0.6	-7.3	-2.5	-4.3	-6.5	-7.1	-8.7	--
MLS Average Resale Prices	24.3	-1.4	-9.1	-4.2	-7.4	-10.0	-9.2	-10.4	-6.8
Edmonton	34.3	-2.0	-7.7	-2.0	-5.7	-4.5	-8.7	-10.1	-7.4
Calgary	18.7	-2.9	-10.9	-6.0	-9.4	-11.4	-10.8	-11.3	-10.1
Retail Sales	9.3	-0.1	-11.3	-5.6	-7.7	-6.4	-13.4	-13.8	--
New Motor Vehicle Sales	3.3	-7.3	-30.1	-11.6	-23.6	-22.5	-35.4	-31.9	--
Business Sector									
Public and Private Investment[5]	9.1	3.6	-14.0	--	--	--	--	--	--
Mining and oil and gas[5]	0.3	-1.4	-28.2	--	--	--	--	--	--
Rigs Drilling	-35.2	-2.1	-43.8	3.5	-10.2	-24.4	-43.9	-60.8	-42.0
Goods Exports (customs based)	5.3	33.2	-28.7	16.4	-7.9	-27.3	-30.2	--	--
Energy	4.4	40.9	-33.2	18.0	-7.9	-31.5	-35.1	--	--
Agriculture	9.8	28.6	0.0	35.8	16.8	-3.4	3.6	--	--
Total Farm Cash Receipts (quarterly)	11.9	15.2	--	--	8.5 (Q4)	--	--	--	--
Manufacturing Shipments	1.9	6.9	-13.9	-4.6	-8.2	-13.4	-14.6	-13.8	--
Wholesale Trade	5.0	10.9	-2.1	5.9	13.6	4.5	-6.1	-4.2	--
Building Permits	13.4	-16.5	-51.5	-14.7	-29.1	-52.5	-67.5	-29.8	--
Residential	10.7	-31.5	-58.9	-42.2	-37.2	-67.0	-72.5	30.5	--
Non-residential	17.1	3.7	-44.2	24.5	-21.4	-40.2	-62.9	--	--

Government of Alberta
Finance and Enterprise

* YTD – year-to-date represents the change since the beginning of the year compared to the same period in the previous year.

[1] Quarterly; annual numbers are presented on a census year basis (July 1 - June 30). The January population estimate is also the 2009 year-to-date value.

[2] The average weekly earnings series was extensively revised on March 31, 2009 and is no longer comparable with numbers in previous Bulletins

[3] Total income earning in Alberta including wages and salaries, and supplementary income.

[4] Average of Calgary and Edmonton.

[5] 2009 based on initial investment intentions, 2008 preliminary actuals, and 2007 actuals

Sources: All data is from Statistics Canada except Housing Starts (Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation), MLS Average Resale Prices (Canadian Real Estate Association) and Rigs Drilling (Canadian Association of Oilwell Drilling Contractors).

Alberta

CURRENT ECONOMIC INDICATORS, BY PROVINCE

	Canada	Nfld.	P.E.I.	N.S.	N.B.	Que.	Ont.	Man.	Sask.	Alta.	B.C.
Conference Board Forecast (Winter 2009)											
Real GDP Growth											
2007 (actuals, Statistics Canada)	**2.7%**	9.1%	2.4%	1.7%	1.7%	2.7%	2.3%	3.3%	2.5%	**3.1%**	3.0%
2008 (actuals, Statistics Canada)	***0.5%***	-0.1%	0.9%	2.0%	-0.0%	1.0%	-0.4%	2.4%	4.4%	**-0.2%**	-0.3%
2009	***-0.5%***	-2.6%	0.6%	-0.3%	0.2%	-0.4%	-1.2%	1.0%	1.6%	**-0.5%**	-0.1%
Population (As of January 1, 2009)											
Population	**33,504,680**	508,990	140,402	939,531	748,319	7,782,561	12,986,857	1,213,815	1,023,810	**3,632,483**	4,419,974
Annual Growth Rate[a]	***1.21%***	0.24%	1.25%	0.25%	0.23%	0.86%	1.05%	1.11%	1.50%	**2.58%**	1.70%
Net Interprovincial Migration											
2008 Census Year (July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008)		1,299	42	-117	-325	-12,399	-16,522	-503	8,067	**10,010**	11,458
4th Quarter (October 1, 2008 to December 31, 2008)		292	-503	108	264	-2,139	-6,517	249	949	**6,198**	1,453
Employment											
Level Change (000s)[b]	**-270.4**	-8.7	-1.8	-3.5	-1.5	-10.9	-160.9	-8.2	9.7	**-18.2**	-66.4
Percent Change[b]	***-1.6%***	-4.1%	-2.7%	-0.8%	-0.4%	-0.3%	-2.4%	-1.4%	1.9%	**-0.9%**	-2.9%
Unemployment Rate, 2009 avg (SA)	**7.7**	14.7	12.0	8.9	9.0	8.1	8.5	4.8	4.6	**5.4**	6.9
Participation Rate, 2009 avg (SA)	***67.4***	59.1	67.5	64.5	64.8	65.3	67.6	69.3	70.4	**74.6**	65.8
Average Weekly Earnings											
March 2009	**824.98**	807.59	694.51	735.96	743.76	756.83	851.89	773.47	801.99	**971.07**	802.27
Y/Y Percent Increase[c]	**2.7%**	6.4%	6.3%	4.8%	3.5%	0.8%	2.6%	4.2%	3.1%	**5.6%**	2.0%
2009 Wage Settlements										**1.5%**	
CPI Inflation											
April Annual	**0.4%**	0.4%	-0.3%	-0.4%	-0.3%	0.3%	0.6%	0.9%	0.6%	**-0.7%**	0.3%
Excluding Shelter	**0.4%**	0.3%	1.2%	-0.4%	-0.3%	0.1%	0.5%	0.0%	-0.3%	**0.3%**	0.8%
Housing Starts (000s)											
SAAR April 2009	**117.4**	2.8	0.5	2.5	4.2	40.9	36.3	3.1	2.9	**12.4**	11.7
Retail Sales											
Percent Change[d]	**-4.9%**	3.8%	-1.1%	-4.7%	0.2%	0.7%	-2.7%	-4.5%	-3.3%	**-13.8%**	-12.3%
2009 YTD Retail Sales Growth	**-6.0%**	-0.8%	-2.8%	-4.8%	-2.2%	-3.0%	-5.0%	-4.5%	-2.9%	**-11.3%**	-10.6%
Manufacturing Shipments											
Percent Change[d]	**-14.5%**	-27.1%	9.1%	-12.9%	-25.8%	-15.4%	-14.5%	2.7%	-4.4%	**-13.8%**	-17.1%

a. Over the past 12 months
b. April 2009 Y/Y change, unadjusted for seasonal effects
c. Updated to January 2009
d. March 2009 Y/Y change, unadjusted for seasonal effects
SA-Seasonally Adjusted
Source: Statistics Canada, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and Conference Board of Canada